

Approved For Release 2006/07/06 : CIA-RDP78T04743A000100060008-0

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TCS 4563/63-KH  
 G-MB 653/63  
 15 October 1963  
 Copy No. 6

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Current Support Staff, ORR

ATTENTION: [REDACTED]

THRU: Chief, RB/RG/CGS

FROM: Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)

SUBJECT: Conditions in the Soviet "New Lands" grain region.

REFERENCE: Requirement No. C-RR3-80,625 (Project No. C 1341-63)

1. In partial response to Requirement No. C-RR3-80,625 (Project No. 1341-63), a preliminary analysis was made of both KH and T photographic coverage to determine whether dust bowl conditions are developing in the Soviet "New Lands" grain region.

2. The study revealed no positive identification of dust storms in progress. It is believed that a dust storm front could be distinguished, but in the brief periods of time represented by the available photographic coverage, no such storm front was available for recording. [REDACTED]

3. In comparing [REDACTED] photo coverage of the area of interest with [REDACTED] and earlier coverage, the possible deterioration of agriculture conditions in [REDACTED]

operations. Paucity of rainfall over the area as whole during the [REDACTED] growing season is indicated by low water levels in lakes and streams. Many lakes throughout the area appear to be almost wholly evaporated.

4. There is ample evidence of drought as a contributing factor to the poor agriculture conditions of [REDACTED] but the wide-spread evidence of soil denudation in the northern Kazakhstan "New Lands" area probably results from agricultural mismanagement.

DDR-DUPE [REDACTED]

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5. A detailed analysis of the area of interest and its localized problems is in process and will be forwarded when completed. With the detailed report there will be photographs comparing selected locations from one season to another to serve as illustrations of the several aspects of the conditions rampant in the area.

6. The photo analysis on this project was performed by [redacted] CIA/PID/GMB (NPIC), who may be contacted on ext. 2548 for any additional information.

Copy to

[redacted] RR/R/Ag, Coordinator [redacted]

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